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Five-year grant awarded to Albuquerque organization

by **J. Rich Garcia, Directed Energy Directorate**

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. — Three Albuquerque-area organizations are involved in a million dollar grant that was awarded Aug. 13.

The grant for \$1,145,880 over a five-year period was awarded by the Air Force Research Laboratory's Directed Energy Directorate to the Directed Energy Professional Society in Albuquerque. The society will use the grant to set up and operate an educational outreach program for the High Energy Laser Joint Technology Office, a joint military service organization also in Albuquerque.

Under the grant, the Directed Energy Professional Society will manage a summer intern program that will attract students to high-energy laser research activities. The society will produce educational products relating to high-energy lasers for kindergarten through graduate school levels. Additionally, the Society will develop and offer professional education short courses on high-energy laser subjects, potentially at various sites around the country.

The grant also requires that the society host an annual directed-energy workshop, emphasize the needs of educators in

high-energy laser areas, and institute a variety of other activities that will encourage student interest. These include recruiting events, recognition for student accomplishments in this area, education of faculty and counselors in high-energy laser principles and careers, and support for classroom activities.

The High Energy Laser Joint Technology Office was established in 2000 to manage a comprehensive approach to the development of high-energy laser science and technology for Department of Defense organizations. Operating under an annual budget of approximately \$60 million, the organization is currently sponsoring 80 programs across industry, academia and government agencies.

The Air Force Research Laboratory's Directed Energy Directorate provides technical and administrative support to the Joint Technology Office; in this case, by awarding the grant.

The Directed Energy Professional Society was founded in 1999 to foster research and development of directed-energy technologies for national defense and civil applications through professional communication and education. @